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HOUSE MEMORIAL 51

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO WHERE SNOWSTORMS THREATEN SURVIVAL.

WHEREAS, northwestern New Mexico has been devastated by at least three snowstorms, one after another, in recent weeks; and

WHEREAS, in some places on the Navajo Nation, snow is at a depth of four feet; and

WHEREAS, such deep snow, especially when layered upon sheets of ice, is treacherous not only because it is difficult to walk through but also because it can cause disorientation; and

WHEREAS, such deep snow forces isolation on people who live in remote corners of the Navajo Nation as well as those who may live closer to roads; and

WHEREAS, residents isolated by the snow are likely to have

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1 inadequate food and water supplies; and

2 WHEREAS, these isolated New Mexicans may be unable to
3 survive another storm or weather the long period when roads
4 remain impassable as the snow melts; and

5 WHEREAS, even the livestock of people isolated by the
6 storms may be unable to find food and water under snow so deep
7 it is up to their bellies;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
10 urged to declare an emergency immediately for areas in
11 northwestern New Mexico where roads are impassable, animals
12 cannot reach food and water and where residents are unable to
13 get to sources of food, water and medical care; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
15 announce his funding decision as soon as possible so that
16 persons snowed under may hear whether they will have to dig out
17 from the snow without state government help; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of homeland
20 security and emergency management.

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